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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/517,106	12/07/2004	Hans Paul Tuinhout	NLO2 0488US	1314
65913	7550	09/19/2008		
NXP, B.V. NXP INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT M/S41-SJ 1109 MCKAY DRIVE SAN JOSE, CA 95131			EXAMINER BAISA, JOSE LITO SASSIS	
			ART UNIT 2832	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 09/19/2008	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

ip.department.us@nxp.com

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/517,106

**Applicant(s)**

TUINHOUT ET AL.

**Examiner**

JOSELITO BAISA

**Art Unit**

2832

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 June 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 12-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 and 12-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 December 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB-083)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-8 and 12-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Praria [4505032] in view of Piedmont et al. [4228418].

Regarding claims 1 and 12, Praria discloses a resistor body 56 connected to and situated between column of taps 64f, 64ff, 64fff and taps 64'f, 64'ff, 64'fff wherein at least two taps can be connected with respective first and second sources of reference input potentials, and wherein each tap of the at least one column of taps can be used for outputting an output potential via a contact area which is connected with the concerning tap (62f, 62ff...), and wherein the only electrical connections between the resistor sub-bodies are electrical connections via taps connected with the resistor [Col. 6, Lines 3-11, Figure 8].

Praria discloses the instant claimed invention discussed above except for a resistor network comprising a resistor body that includes multiple resistor sub-bodies.

Piedmont discloses a resistor network comprising a resistor body that includes multiple resistor sub-bodies (33, 34...313, 314) [Col. 3, Lines 51-67, Figure 3].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a resistor network that includes sub-bodies as taught by Piedmont to the resistor of Praria.

The motivation would have been to be able to provide a resistor network that can be used in the desired electrical connection [Col. 3, Lines 61-65].

Regarding claims 2 and 13, Praria discloses resistor sub-body provided with at least one column of taps ( 64f, ...64ffff) wherein each tap of the column of taps is an extremity such as a T-shaped projection which is connected with the concerning resistor sub-body 56f [see Figure 8].

Regarding claims 3 and 14, Praria discloses a plurality of taps of a first column of taps (64f,...) of a resistor sub-body and a plurality of taps of a second column of taps (64'f...) Col. 6, Lines 3-11, Figure 8].

Praria discloses the instant claimed invention discussed above except for a plurality of first column of tap of a first resistor body connected with a second column of taps of a second resistor sub-body, wherein each tap of the plurality of taps of the first column is connected with only one tap of the plurality of taps of the second column and wherein each tap of the plurality of taps of the second column is connected with only one tap of the plurality of taps of the first column [see Figure 3].

Piedmont discloses a resistor sub-bodies connected through conductor strips that can be severed and allow for a desired connection [Col. 3, Lines 51-67].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use a resistor network that includes sub-bodies as taught by Piedmont to the resistor of Praria.

The motivation would have been to be able to provide a resistor network that can be used in the desired electrical connection [Col. 3, Lines 61-65].

Regarding claims 4 and 15, Praria discloses straight parallel peninsulas of each resistor sub-body is not necessarily be the case. It can be shifted depending on the need [Col. 5, Lines 34-40, Figures 2-5].

Regarding claim 5, the claim, “the respective connections between the resistor sub-bodies with the taps are made during fabrication of the resistor network at different arbitrary positions with respect to the respective taps”, is a method counterpart of structure of the rejected claim 3 and method steps therefore are inherent for manufacturing a ladder network resistor.

Regarding claim 6, Piedmont discloses the resistor network is a semiconductor-circuit, wherein each resistor sub-body comprises a number of resistor layers, wherein each semi-conducting resistor layer comprises at least two taps, and wherein the semi-conducting resistor layers are interconnected via the taps [Col. 2, Lines 8-38].

Regarding claims 7 and 8, the recitation, “ an Analog-Digital converter comprises a resistive network”, cannot be relied upon to distinguish over the Piedmont reference because they are seen as intended use (i.e., when the claim is directed to a circuit device, any recitation concerning the input or output signal of such circuit device or environment in which the circuit device is employed is not part of the inventive circuit device). Only structural and functional limitations are given patentable weight.

***Response to Argument***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 and 12-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Praria discloses a resistor body 56 connected to and situated between column of taps 64f, 64ff, 64fff and taps 64'f, 64'ff, 64'fff wherein at least two taps can be connected with respective first and second sources of reference input potentials, and wherein each tap of the at least one column of taps can be used for outputting an output potential via a contact area which is connected with the concerning tap (62f, 62ff...), and wherein the only electrical connections between the resistor sub-bodies are electrical connections via taps connected with the resistor.

***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joselito Baisa whose telephone number is (571) 272-7132. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 am to 2:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on (571) 272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elvin G Enad/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2832

Joselito Baisa  
Examiner  
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Application/Control Number: 10/517,106  
Art Unit: 2832

Page 7